

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 00630 272333Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-12 /101 W  
-----066127 272339Z /73/41

R 252216Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2249

UNCLAS CANBERRA 0630

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR MRN 0630 VICE 0552

E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: PEPR, ID, AS  
SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT ACCEPTS INDONESIAN TAKEOVER IN TIMOR

REF: JAKARTA 1100

WITH GREAT EMBARRASSMENT AND APOLOGY, WE REPEAT TO YOU  
CANBERRA 0552. YOU WERE TO HAVE BEEN FIRST ON THE INFO LIST.  
NOSTRA MAXIMA CULPA.

QUOTE R230605Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC  
INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMEMBASSY MANILA  
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON  
USMISSION USUN  
CINCPAC  
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UNCLAS CANBERRA 0552

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: PEPR, ID, AS  
SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT ACCEPTS INDONESIAN TAKEOVER IN TIMOR

1. AUSTRALIAN FONMIN ANDREW PEACOCK, IN A STATEMENT ON JANUARY 20, 1978, ANNOUNCED THAT THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED INDONESIA'S SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE FORMER PORTUGUESE COLONY OF EAST TIMOR.

2. PEACOCK SAID THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT'S DECISION WAS BASED UPON THE FACT THAT INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT CONTROL WAS EFFECTIVE AND COVERED ALL MAJOR ADMINISTRATIVE CENTERS. ALTHOUGH THE GOA "REMAINS CRITICAL OF THE MEANS BY WHICH INTEGRATION WAS BROUGHT ABOUT, IT WOULD BE UNREALISTIC TO CONTINUE TO REFUSE TO RECOGNIZE THAT EAST TIMOR IS PART OF INDONESIA."

3. THE GOA'S MOVE WAS PROMPTED BY THE NEED TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH INDONESIA OVER CONSULAR MATTERS HAVING TO DO WITH REUNITING FAMILY MEMBERS OF THOSE TIMORESE WHO HAD COME TO AUSTRALIA AS REFUGEES FOLLOWING THE INDONESIAN INVASION IN 1975.

4. PEACOCK'S ANNOUNCEMENT BROUGHT PREDICTABLE HOWLS OF OUTRAGE FROM THOSE SMALL NUMBERS OF POLITICALLY ACTIVE AUSTRALIANS WHO HAVE MADE THE TIMOR ISSUE A BADGE TO REPLACE THE ONE THEY LOST WHEN THE VIETNAM WAS ENDED. MORE SENSIBLE AUSTRALIANS (INCLUDING MOST EDITORIAL OPINION) HAVE APPLAUDED PEACOCK'S STATEMENT AS POSSIBLY LAMENTABLE BUT NONETHELESS THE ONLY UNCLASSIFIED

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PRACTICAL COURSE OF ACTION IN DEALING WITH AUSTRALIA'S NORTHERN NEIGHBOR. ALSTON ENDQTE.  
ALSTON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SOVEREIGNTY, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Subject:** AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT ACCEPTS INDONESIAN TAKEOVER IN TIMOR  
**TAGS:** PEPR, PBOR, ID, AS  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014